

Appln. of: VAN DER BLOM, Nicolaas
Serial No.: 10/030,242
Filed: October 22, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 - 103. (Previously cancelled).

104 - 107. (Cancelled).

108. (Previously presented) A piston-chamber combination comprising an elongate chamber which is bounded by an inner chamber wall and comprising a piston in said chamber to be sealingly movable relative to said chamber at least between first and second longitudinal positions of said chamber,

said chamber having cross-sections of different cross-sectional areas at the first and second longitudinal positions of said chamber and at least substantially continuously differing cross-sectional areas at intermediate longitudinal positions between the first and second longitudinal positions thereof, the cross-sectional area at the first longitudinal position being larger than the cross-sectional area at the second longitudinal position,

said piston including a piston body and sealing means supported by the piston body for sealing on said inner chamber wall, the piston body being designed to adapt itself and said sealing means to said different cross-sectional areas of said chamber during the relative movements of said piston from the first longitudinal position through said intermediate longitudinal positions to the second longitudinal position of said chamber.

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an elastically deformable material being adapted to adapt itself to the different cross-sectional areas of the chamber between the first and second longitudinal positions thereof, and

a coiled flat spring having a central axis at least substantially along the longitudinal axis of the chamber, the spring being positioned adjacently to the elastically deformable material so as to support the elastically deformable material in the longitudinal direction.

109. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 108, wherein the piston further comprises a number of flat supporting means positioned between the elastically deformable material and the spring, the supporting means being rotatable along an interface between the spring and elastically deformable material.

110. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 109, wherein the supporting means are adapted to rotate from the first position to a second position wherein, in the first position, an outer boundary thereof may be comprised within the cross-sectional area of the chamber in the first longitudinal position thereof and wherein, in the second position, an outer boundary thereof may be comprised within the cross-sectional area of the chamber in the second longitudinal position thereof.

111 – 126. (Cancelled)